



Migration, Climate Change



The Environment



Migration, Climate Change, and the Environment – A Complex Nexus

- Both slow and sudden onset processes and events can induce migration
- Climate change is likely to exacerbate these events and processes
- Environmental changes can lead to **all kinds of population movements** (displacement is one of them)
- Migration can affect the environment as well



Migration, Climate Change, and the Environment – A Complex Nexus

- Economic, social, demographic, political and developmental factors
- Environmental migration:
 - Is a **multi-causal phenomenon**
 - Can be a **humanitarian** and a **development issue**



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Environmental Migration

Near or Far?



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Internal migration
or movement
between
neighbouring
countries likely to
be predominant



Environmental Migration

Temporary or Permanent?



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- Natural disasters: mainly temporary movement
- Early stages of environmental degradation: often temporary and circular
- Irreversible environmental degradation: potentially permanent



Environmental Migration

Forced or Voluntary?



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- A blurred distinction
- Some clearly forced, some clearly voluntary, with a large “grey” zone in between



Environmental Migration

Leave or Stay?



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- Migration as a coping strategy is not open to everyone
- Not necessarily the most vulnerable who will migrate



Environmental Migration

Problem or Solution?



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- Migration is predominantly seen as a worst-case scenario
- Migration can also be a mechanism for adaptation



Terminology and Definitions

- Environmental migrants do not fit neatly within the existing international legal framework
- No internationally accepted definition to date
- Use of “environmental refugees” and “climate refugees” is discouraged
- IOM uses a working definition with no legal implications (adopted by IOM Council in 2007)



Protection issues

Human rights architecture as the key framework

- States bear the primary responsibility to protect and assist victims, including of natural disasters
- UN Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement
- Temporary protection to stay could be granted in a more systematic way
- International humanitarian system (IOM global cluster lead for Camp Coordination and Camp Management in natural disasters)



IOM's Experience

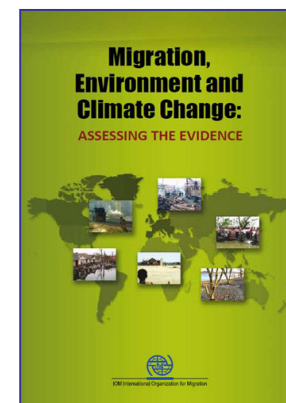
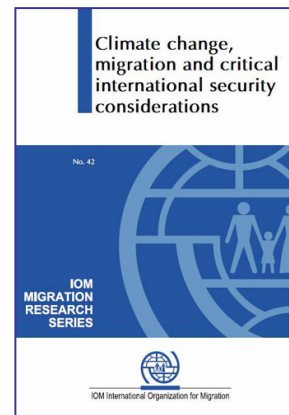
IOM's objectives in managing environmental migration:

- Prevent forced migration resulting from environmental factors, to the extent possible.
- Provide assistance and protection to affected populations, and seek durable solutions.
- To facilitate migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change.



IOM Activities

- Dialogue and cooperation
- Policy coherence
- Research
- International migration law
- Partnerships
- Advocacy (in climate change negotiations)
- Information and communication
- Operations





IOM Activities: Operations

Humanitarian response to displacement induced by natural disaster (immediate protection & assistance and recovery support)

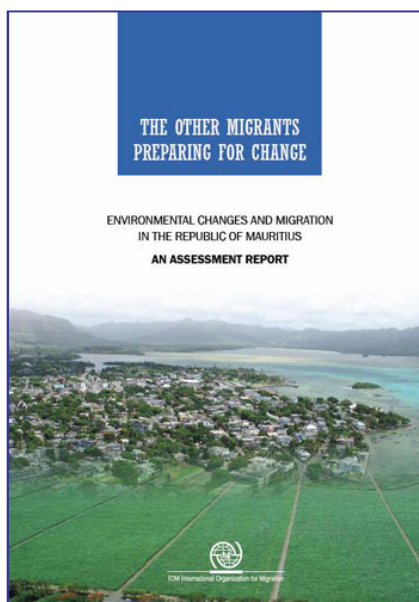
Reducing vulnerability and promoting adaptation to environmental and climate changes (disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, migration & development)



IOM Experience

Sea-level rise
and gradual
environmental
change –

Sustainable
development and
climate change
adaptation against
migration
pressures



Mauritius





IOM Experience

Sudan

Drought, water scarcity
and conflict –

Vulnerability mapping for
durable solutions to
displacement



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IOM Experience

Azerbaijan

Water scarcity and
migration pressures –

Traditional adaptation
strategies to stabilize
livelihoods



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IOM Experience

Colombia



Environmental
vulnerabilities –
Adaptation through
temporary labour
mobility



Thank you!

For further information, please visit:

www.iom.int/envmig